

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
18 December 2003 (18.12.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/103722 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: A61K 49/08,
41/00

MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE,
SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ,
VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP03/05761

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(22) International Filing Date: 2 June 2003 (02.06.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
02012531.6 5 June 2002 (05.06.2002) EP

Declarations under Rule 4.17:
— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted
a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE,
AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA,
CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES,
FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG,
MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG,
UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR,
GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR),
OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)
— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the
earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for the following designation US
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRACCO
IMAGING S.P.A. [IT/IT]; Via Egidio Folli, 50, I-20134
Milano (IT).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): AIME, Silvio
[IT/IT]; Bracco Imaging S.p.A., Via Egidio Folli, 50,
I-20134 Milano (IT). MAINERO, Valentina [IT/IT];
Bracco Imaging S.p.A., Via Egidio Folli, 50, I-20134
Milano (IT). GENINATTI, Chrich, Simonetta [IT/IT];
Bracco Imaging S.p.A., Via Egidio Folli, 50, I-20134 Milano
(IT). CABELLA, Claudia [IT/IT]; Bracco Imaging
S.p.A., Via Egidio Folli, 50, I-20134 Milano (IT).

(74) Agent: MACCHETTA, Francesco; Bracco Imaging
S.p.A., Intellectual Property Department, Via Egidio Folli,
50, I-20134 Milano (IT).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,

Published:
— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 03/103722 A1

(54) Title: NEW AGENTS FOR MAGNETIC IMAGING METHOD

(57) Abstract: The invention provides MRI detectable species of formula (I): $D_pS_nN_m$, wherein D is a MRI detectable moiety; S is a spacer; N is a molecule of a nutrient or pseudo-nutrient; n is 0 or an integer; m is an integer and p is an integer. These compounds are useful for internalising into tumor cells an amount of the MRI detectable moiety that is distinguishably higher than the amount internalised in normal healthy cells thus allowing the diagnosis of tumors. The internalisation of the MRI detectable moiety involves the nutrients or pseudo-nutrients transporting system. Preferred compounds of formula (I) are those wherein D is the chelated complex of a paramagnetic metal ion.